(c) whether the office will energize itself and settle such issues;

(d) what steps are proposed by Government to monitor all offices of Regional Chief Conservator of forests;

(e) whether they will be made more accountable for their actions or in-action; and

(f) if so, the details of steps proposed to improve such offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (f) No Sir. Under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests have been delegated power to aoprove proposals involving diversion of forest land up to 5 hectares, except mining and regularization of encroachment, and process the proposals involving diversion of forest land up to 40 hectares in consultation with State Advisory Group. There is no provision under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for dealing proposals in respect of tribals and non-tribals, differently; however, no proposal, submitted by State Governments for diversion of forest land to meet specific needs of tribal, is pending with Regional Office, Bangalore. For taking decision on proposals, State Governments are required to furnish complete information. Rules and Guidelines have been framed under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 to dispose applications within specific time limit, and regional Offices have been directed to take action accordingly; however, Ministry reviews the performance of the Regional Offices from time to time.

Cutting of trees for commercial use

1757. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
PROF.SAIF-UD-DINSOZ:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2000 trees are proposed to be uprooted from a well-laid park in Nehru Place, New Delhi to build up a huge commercial area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no other park in the area to supply fresh and pollution free air,

(d) whether the approval of the Environment and Forest Ministry has been solicited for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (e) As intimated by the Forest Department, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, there is no such proposal with the Forest Department. It has further been intimated that the Forest Department co-ordinates with all greening agencies like, Central Public Works Department, Delhi Development Authority, Municipal Corporation Delhi etc. to ensure free plantation on available vacant lands in Delhi to increase forest cover for fresh and pollution free air.

Felling of trees in forests

†1758. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the villagers under Kavardha Forest division of Chhattisgarh State have dug a canal collectively inside the forest area and thousands of trees have been cut down illegally;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the indifferent attitude of the administration and non-cooperation by the Departments, the Indian Forest Conservation Act, 1980 had been violated and the said work was allowed;

(c) if so, present status thereof and the details of the action taken by the Departments;

(d) species-wise number and cost of the trees which have been cut down; and

(e) steps taken by Government against the guilties?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.